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Sen. Gilbert announces funding for local road projects

LANSING – Sen. Jud Gilbert today announced legislation he sponsored is having a positive direct impact on local roads around Michigan as the state jumpstarts 210 projects to improve roads and provide jobs.

"As chair of the Senate Transportation Committee I recognized that many city and county projects were under funded and pushed aside as money became tight, so I moved this legislation through to help give a boost to local economies," said Gilbert, R-Algonac. "Using state dollars to help local projects will improve safety for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists while creating jobs for local workers."

Four local projects were awarded funding. They are:

- Pavement patching on various portions of the Fred Moore Highway in St. Clair;
- Road reconstruction on Vine Street between 10th and 2nd in St. Clair;
- Rehabilitation of the 7th Street bridge over the Black River in Port Huron; and
- Reconstruction of the road and storm system on Gratiot Ave. between Krafft and Keewahdin roads in Port Huron.

This is the first time state money will be used to fund city and county transportation projects including the physical construction and construction engineering. The required non-construction items such as preliminary engineering, right-of-way purchases and other environmental studies will not be funded through the program.

Priority was given to the following:

- Projects designated as high priority projects ready to be constructed in 2006 or 2007.
- Local federal aid projects scheduled for construction in 2007 that can be advanced to 2006.
- Local federal aid projects scheduled for construction in 2008 that can be advanced to 2007.